

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

The Charleston Police Department is committed to serving our community to enhance the quality of life and foster community partnerships to prevent the occurrences of crime. We are determined to serve as a deterrent to crime by partnering with community members to reduce the probability of individual victimization. In order to be successful in this essential responsibility it is imperative that we work together to increase community awareness and knowledge of crime prevention strategies. While a multitude of crime prevention tips exist, the below tips are provided to increase safety in our community.

POLICE CHIEF'S CRIME PREVENTION MESSAGE



Enhanced community safety and security can only be achieved through a continuing partnership between law enforcement and the community member's we serve that fosters communications and involvement in crime prevention programs. The focus of community crime prevention is to reduce the likelihood of each individual being victimized by those with criminal intent. This can only be accomplished by sharing information that will help you recognize your own vulnerability to crime. The goal is to provide information that increases awareness and reduces your risk through preventive action and cooperation with law enforcement. These preventative tips are provided to increase your awareness of actions that will reduce your chances of being victimized. Rest assured that the Charleston Police Department is dedicated to the safety and security of our community through the public education and the utilization of crime prevention techniques.

Chief Gregory G. Mullen

TIPS THAT WILL REDUCE YOUR RISK

Help Reduce Burglaries

Be visible – keep hedges, bushes, and other obstruction cut back to waste height

Have and use good door and window locks

Install and maintain good lighting.

Have a routine for “close up shop.” Lock all doors, window, and activate alarms

Eliminate Theft at the ATM

When possible use the ATM during the daylight hours

When using an ATM at night use ones that are highly visible and well lit

Shield the entry of your PIN from view of others

Do not allow others to assist you during your transaction

If you notice anything out of the ordinary cancel the transaction and leave

Assault Prevention

Install peep holes in your doors

Do not let strangers in your home for any reason

Get to know your neighbors and look out for one another

Walk in populated areas: if you are followed go to a well lit populated location

Walk close to the curb; avoid doorways, bushes, and alleys

Reduce Identify Theft

Reduce access to your personal data

Limit identity items on your person

Be mindful not to disclose unnecessary personal information to individuals

Check your credit card statements monthly and your credit report annually for any suspicious activity.

Reduce access to your personal information by destroying or shredding such items as pre-approved credit offers, credit card receipts and statements, tax information, and telephone bills

Telemarketing Fraud Reduction

Ask for the details in writing when a deal seems to good to be true

Never give out personal information over the phone or internet unless you initiated the contact

Be cautious if the caller ask for advance payment or credit card information over the phone

Vehicle Theft/Carjacking

Always lock your doors and close windows

Do not leave valuables in plain view

Park in well lit, populated areas

Use anti-theft devices

Be alert to surroundings or people approaching your car

Look into your car before you get in

When entering your car, home, or business have your keys ready

Always be alert and observant

Don't pick up hitchhikers

Street Smart (Personal Tips)

Trust your instinct; if it does not feel right move away from it

Always be alert to your surroundings

Avoid less traveled routes and shortcuts

Do not flash large sums of cash or carry unnecessary credit cards

Carry your purse close to your body and not dangling by the straps

Do not wear clothing or shoes that restrict your ability to move

If you work late, request a friend or co-worker to escort you to your car

If you are going out, use the buddy system and go with friends or family.

Internet Crimes

Protect your children from online predators and the pervasiveness of pornography on the Internet

Ensure that your children know it is unsafe to arrange a face to face meeting with a stranger you meet online

Maintain open communications with your children about the dangers present on the Internet

Monitor children's use of the internet and use parental control software

Use protective software like firewalls, antivirus, anti-spy, and spam blockers

Don't give out personal information online in such areas as chat rooms

Create secure passwords that are not easily broken

Only shop at trusted and secure internet sites

Be mindful of internet scams

Reduce Neighborhood Violence

Establish and participate in a Neighborhood Watch Program

Keep your home well lit and free from obstructions like overgrown shrubs and bushes

Build partnerships with the police and sponsor community events that engage the entire community, there is strength in numbers

Develop programs that encourage weapons to be turned in

Discuss teasing and name calling with children; this can turn to violence easily if conflict resolutions skills are not employed

Monitor what you and your children watch and listen to; videos and music can bring about violence

Set the example in your home by resolving conflict without resorting to violence or hurtful words

Stick with friends and family members who steer clear of drugs and violence. Research shows a close link between the use of drugs and alcohol and the use of weapons. Weapons make violence more deadly and personal

Never give out personal information over the phone or internet unless you initiated the contact

Be cautious if the caller asks for advance payment or credit card information over the phone



180 Lockwood Blvd
Charleston, SC 29403
843-577-7434

Should you become victimized by criminals it is crucial that you contact us immediately so that we can respond to ensure your safety and begin our efforts to bring the criminal to justice. Delaying reporting of criminal acts only increases the likelihood that the criminal will escape apprehension and the possibility of the loss of criminal evidence.

Additional, contacting us if you have witnessed a criminal act or become aware of information

related to a crime is equally as essential to be successful in our efforts to partner with community members to enhance individual safety by apprehending criminals and collecting necessary evidence of the criminal act.

By partnering together we can truly "Take a Bite Out of Crime" and ensure that Charleston remains a safe community.